Election of the Chairman to the Nagercoil Municipal Council.

5. **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*) : (1) Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they received any requisition for police protection at the premises of the Nagercoil Municipal office at the time of the chairman's election ; and if so, by whom and on what grounds such requisition was made ;

(*b*) whether the Government enquired into the matter before ordering such protection ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar, approached for information the Headmaster of the local English High School, who is also a nominated official member of the Municipal Council ;

(*d*) whether they are aware that the citizens of Nagercoil strongly resented this police interference in their municipal election ;

(*e*) whether they received any message protesting against this interference on the part of the police ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that an elected member of the Municipal Council personally protested against this to Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar and insisted on his taking statements before proceeding to interfere in their election ; if so, whether Mr. Pitchu Aiyangar did so, and if not, why ; and

(*g*) whether there was any report from the District Superintendent of Police who was present at the time of such election and whether he found sufficient grounds necessitating his presence with police force notwithstanding the protest of an elected member of the Municipal Council ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the police report, if any, as also a copy of the requisition for police protection ?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) :

(1) (*a*) Yes, by Mr. Nayanar, the President of the Council, who, it is reported, had sufficient grounds to apprehend a breach of the peace at the time of election.

(*b*) The Government directed the Commissioner of Police to take such action as he deemed necessary in the matter.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

(*g*) There was a report from the District Superintendent of Police. The report does not say whether the District Superintendent of Police found sufficient grounds necessitating his presence with the police force at the election. There was no protest against the presence of the District Superintendent of Police.

(2) Copies* of the reports from the President and the District Superintendent of Police are laid on the table.

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* *Vide* Appendix II – page 19.

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Appendix II.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 5.**

Copy of report from the President, Municipal Council, Nagercoil.

Municipal Office,
Nagercoil, 6th February 1926.

My dear Sir,

I write to inform you that some interested persons are thinking of creating disturbance at the time of the election of the President to take place at 5 P. M. on 4-7-1101 and preventing it from taking place. Also as the election is most keenly fought and most sensational, I fear unhappy incidents may take place. I therefore request instructions be given to Mr. R. Pitchu Aiyangar, District Superintendent of Police, Trivandrum, to be present and see that the election is conducted without any disturbance. I may add that some unhappy incidents that took place at the recent ward elections force me to make this requisition.

I am etc.

Copy of report dated the 19th February 1926 from the D. S. P.

I was present at the time of election and it went on and ended peacefully. Mr. Nayanar was elected once again.

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